

Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge
Escort Policy and Pre-certification Permit Procedures
Effective April 1, 2004

The International Bridge Administration (IBA) will require an escort for all vehicles meeting the following criteria:

1. All placarded vehicles.
2. All vehicles over the width of 12 feet.
3. All vehicles that exceed the weight of 144,000 pounds.

The International Bridge must be contacted by the driver of the vehicle upon or before reaching the bridge plaza to arrange for an escort. Escorts must be done by the International Bridge due to the bridge being only two lanes and the possibility of over width or overweight loads meeting on the bridge.

Escorts for loads over the width of 13 feet 6 inches will require the bridge to be shut down to oncoming traffic and will require notice to the International Bridge prior to arrival.

Escort speed will not exceed 20 mph.

The fee for escort is \$75 U.S. funds or \$100 Canadian funds to be paid in addition to the toll charge.

The International Bridge Administration will issue pre-certification permits to eligible commercial drivers of the following placarded vehicles: flammable gases (Hazard Class 2); non-flammable, non-toxic compressed gasses (Hazard Class 2); and flammable liquids (Hazard Class 3). A permit allows a driver to cross the International Bridge without an escort provided that he/she observes the provisions of the Michigan Vehicle Code and the rules of the International Bridge. A driver must have an International Bridge Administration pre-certification permit card in his/her possession to travel across the bridge in a placarded vehicle without an escort. Escort fees will be waived when the driver presents a valid card to the toll attendant.

New Permits

Applicants for an International Bridge Administration pre-certification permit must participate in a training program before a permit can be issued. Three training escorts are required for a first time applicant. The driver must provide complete information to fill out the top portion of a **Permit Training Program** form available from the IBA Operations Supervisor. The form is given to the driver. The driver is required to bring the form into the Operations Supervisor's Office located in the Administration Building control tower, after each training escort to have it signed by the supervisor on duty. If the form is lost, the driver will be required to start the process over as this is the only record kept.

When the driver completes the training requirements, he/she reports to the Operations Supervisor's Office in the Administration Building to have his/her photograph taken. The supervisor will place the completed form and new permit card in the folder marked **ABridge Permits**. The completed form and new card must be reviewed and approved by the Administration's Permit Review Committee before it can be mailed to the applicant.

Lost Permits

In the event a driver loses his/her permit card, the driver must fill out the top portion of a new Permit Training Program form. The Operations Supervisor will print a new card and attach it to the form with a notation at the top **AREISSUE - LOST CARD@**.

The supervisor will place the completed form and new permit card in the folder marked **ABridge Permits@**. The completed form and new card must be reviewed and approved by the Administration's Permit Review Committee before it can be mailed to the applicant.

Revoked Permits

In the event that a driver violates a provision of the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code or a bridge rule (i.e. passing on the bridge, following too close, speeding), the permit may be revoked. Until a permit is reissued to the driver, all applicable trips across the International Bridge must be escorted by an Administration vehicle as per International Bridge Administration policy and the escort fee will apply.

When a permit is revoked, the supervisor will attach the revoked permit to a **ARule Violation Incident Report"** form to the revoked card. The supervisor will place all paperwork and the revoked permit card in the folder marked **ABridge Permits@**. The Administration's Permit Review Committee will retain the card.

Appeal Process - Revoked Permits

In order to be considered for reissue of a revoked permit, the driver must apply through an appeals process. Prior to appeal, the driver must fill out a new Permit Training Program form and complete six training escorts to which the escort fee will apply.

When the driver completes the training requirements, he/she reports to the Operations Supervisor's office in the Administration Building to submit the completed Permit Training Program form and have his/her picture taken, if necessary. The supervisor will print a new permit card. The completed form and new permit card are then placed in the folder marked **ABridge Permits@**.

The completed form and new card must be reviewed and approved by the Administration's Permit Review Committee. There is no guarantee that the applicant will be reissued a permit. The Permit Review Committee will review the application and historical records for previous violations. The committee will determine whether to:

- a. Approve the permit. If approved, the permit will be mailed to the applicant.
- b. Require additional training and education.
- c. Disapprove reissue. If not approved, the driver will be notified.

Permit Review Committee

The members of the Permit Review Committee are the IBA General Manager, Maintenance Supervisor and Chief Financial Officer. The committee will meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month to review applications for permits. Additional meetings may be held as necessary.